

Eastern Rhode Island Conservation District

2490 Main Road, Tiverton, RI 02878-Phone 401-830-5763

ERICD Board Meeting

April 13, 2010

7:15 PM

Chairman Walter Elwell called the meeting to order at 7:15.

Present were Directors Emerson Wildes, Suzanne Hourihan, Ron Mucci, Dick Hart and Walter Elwell.

Linda Wildes was the substitute secretary. There was no one from NRCS. Mike Kenyon was sick.

- 1. The minutes were approved as written.**
- 2. The treasurer's report was approved as presented.**
- 3. Walter finished FFOS with Tiverton couple. He also spoke to Fish & Wildlife Department about stocking ponds. Some could not be done because of the recent flooding. He has also talked with two Little Compton farmers who need help keeping their property, perhaps by selling their development rights. Walter and Emerson will review Sakonnet Vineyards when it is dry enough. The farmer using 8 Rod Farm has paid his rent and is all set for another year. Keys to the office have been sent to Ramona**
- 4. Emerson got electronic banking set up with Bank Newport so Ramona can use online banking.**
- 5. Suzanne reported that all four candidates for the Ag Tech positions have been accepted.**
- 6. Dick had talked to Al Bettencourt-Farm Bureau and Paul Brule,**

FSA, about using the office space for meeting with their clients in the Eastern RI area. Perhaps they could make a donation to help defer costs of keeping the office in ERI. A motion was made to send a letter to Paul Brule saying we would be glad for the FSA to use the office to meet with their clients. Emerson/Dick, unanimous.

7. Suanne asked and was given permission to show the office space to a friend who is looking to rent a space to hold a class.

8. There were two phone calls this month.

9. Ron had no report on funding for a District Manager position.

Old Business

1. The Eastern RI CIG meeting was held in the office. Fourteen people attended.

2. USDA Grant-The motion was made for ERICD to get involved in the equipment rental program. Ron/Dick. Dick withdrew his second and Ron withdrew the motion. Ron moved that we fill out the application for the equipment rental program. Suzanne seconded. 1 yes, 3 no. The motion did not pass.

3. Walter sent three letters to aquaculturists to see if they needed any assistance. He has gotten no responses. Emerson will let ERICD know if he hears of anyone.

New Business

1. Walter has composed a letter to the 9 towns in the Eastern District letting them know of our background and resources. A motion was made for the letters to be sent out. Suzanne/Dick, 2 yes, 2 no. The chair voted yes and the letters will go out.

- 2. Membership in Ag Council-A motion was made to pay the \$30.00 dues to Ag Council. Emerson/Ron, unanimous.**
- 3. A motion was made to pay the Cox and Xerox bills. Suzanne/Ron, unanimous.**
- 4. There is a Public Issue and Conflict Management Workshop on April 22 if anyone would like to go.**
- 5. A motion was made to not sell rain barrels in 2010. Ron/Dick, unanimous.**
- 6. A motion was made to start a log of use of the office space. Emerson/Suzanne, unanimous.**
- 7. DIRT-Ron suggested advertizing and showing this movie with Tiverton Land Trust and Little Compton Ag. Trust. Tiverton Land Trust has offered to do the leg work. At the end have table set up with information about the three organizations. \$100.00 to buy the DVD. Walter asked Ron to get the details for the next meeting.**
- 8. Walter suggested that a bill be sent to SCC for \$20.00/hrs. for the substitute secretary's services. So moved. Dick/Emerson, unanimous.**
- 9. EWP, Environmental Water Protection-Pooh has money to be used for fixing damage in cities and towns. A form letter was sent out for help with applying. Right now it is a 75/25 split. May get better. There is a 60 day opening for applying for this help. The application has to go through the Districts and a licensed RI contractor has to be used. A motion was made to the District to participate in the EWP program. Ron/Dick, unanimous. It was decided that the Directors would split up the 9 towns and go and talk to a town official directly.**

Suzanne-Middletown, Newport, Jamestown; Dick-Tiverton and Portsmouth; Ron-Barrington and Warren; Walter-Little Compton and Bristol.

10. A motion was made to keep the office for the month of May 2010. Unanimous.

11. On April 15th at 6 PM there will be a Listening Meeting by the Ag Partnership at St. Barnabus Church in Portsmouth.

12. The Livestock Owners Meeting will be April 27th in Little Compton Grange.

13. State Agricultural Day is in May at State House. We will partner with other Districts if they so choose.

14. Earth Day is April 24th in Portsmouth

At the end of the meeting Emerson asked that the Directors reconsider the USDA Grant. Permission was granted. Walter explained that what needs to be done is to find out who would be willing to have equipment for others to rent, who would like to rent what equipment and who or how would the program be managed.

A motion was made that ERICD applies fo